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CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 WINTER 2001-2002

Name This Newsletter!

As you can see, this newsletter needs a name. I decided to leave the FUN stuff to you! So, get those creative juices flowing!

Please submit all newsletter name entries to Kim Frazee, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, by March 15, 2002.

Fax: 573-526-6946,

Email: Frazek@dhss.state.mo.us, or

Phone: 1-800-575-9267

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services CLPPP staff will choose the name they feel is most appropriate and that will fit the purpose of the newsletter.

Off to a Good Start!

I am proud to bring you this first issue- a publication of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Our aim is to keep you updated on current information on childhood lead poisoning prevention and to give you new educational ideas and activities.

Success of this newsletter depends largely on your input; therefore I seek your help. Please contribute topics regarding screenings, health fairs, educational activities, trainings, grant information, environmental issues, data information, upcoming events, and other pertinent lead related information. Submit your information to Kim Frazee, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

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LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

A big THANK YOU! to all the health departments who sent in Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2001 activities for publication in the newsletter. Those will be included in the Summer 2002 edition. Your great ideas will help others in planning Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2002.

Leadosaurus Says....

**Get children less than six
years old tested for lead.**

Be Alert! Lead Can Hurt!



STELLAR Shows an Increase in Testing for Lead Poisoning

STELLAR is a software application used by the state and local childhood lead poisoning prevention programs as a means of tracking medical and environmental activities in lead poisoning cases. According to the STELLAR database, there continues to be a significant increase in the number of children being tested throughout the state for lead poisoning; a 20% increase between July-September 2001 and July-September 2002. The testing increase is a direct result of the outreach, publicity and education efforts provided by LPHAs. The fiscal year 2001 blood lead screening data has been compiled and distributed to the counties. In addition, counties having a CLPPP contract receive monthly reports on case management and risk assessment activities. A report listing children who are overdue for a blood test is sent to all counties. Please feel free to comment on the content and format of these reports.

The increase of testing has added new providers and laboratories that may not be aware of the reporting rules and lead testing follow-up guidelines. Please contact Patty Osman, STELLAR Coordinator, if there is a new laboratory or provider that needs to be included in STELLAR. Ms. Osman will be happy to contact the laboratory to discuss the reporting requirements.

On a national level, the CDC recently held a series of Surveillance Evaluation Conference Calls to obtain suggestions for how the CDC can help childhood lead poisoning prevention programs improve surveillance. One of the major topics discussed was the need for the CDC to provide a national surveillance report to estimate the extent of elevated blood lead levels among children and assess follow up activities. Contact Patty Osman at 573-526-0347 or osmanp@mail.dhss.state.mo.us.

Lead Poisoning Curriculum Project Grades K-12



Are you interested in doing activities with students? Do you want to incorporate curriculum into the schools regarding lead poisoning prevention? The DHSS has a resource that is available to you to incorporate lead education in the schools. The Lead Poisoning Prevention Curriculum was developed by the Tri-State Lead Poisoning Project Team, which consisted of various agencies and teachers from Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. The curriculum was developed by teachers and involves lesson plans for activities ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade. The guide was designed to be user friendly and provide classroom teachers with many tools for teaching lead poisoning related information. The curriculum can be used in its entirety or in pieces. Even though it has some information specific to lead mining areas, it can be easily adapted to other areas as much of it covers general lead poisoning information. Each lesson plan lists the objectives (curriculum indicators), description of the activity, and the knowledge and skills that will be learned.

The curriculum covers four general areas (strands): environment, housekeeping, hygiene, nutrition, and lead poisoning (prevention). The environment strand teaches students to identify, explain, and evaluate the sources of lead poisoning in their environment. In the housekeeping strand, students will be able to explain the importance of certain house cleaning strategies to reduce the exposure to lead, as well as evaluate items in the home as sources of lead. The hygiene strand focuses on the importance of washing hands, wiping feet, and keeping their bodies clean in relation to lead exposure. Students will study good eating habits in the nutrition strand, including the selection and preparation of food to practice good nutrition and reduce the effects of lead poisoning. Since the entire curriculum addresses the prevention of lead poisoning, the lead poisoning prevention strand emphasizes actual specific points to preventing lead poisoning, which are listed in the objectives.

Lesson plans can be used to develop a “theme” week on lead poisoning prevention where involvement could range from one classroom to the entire school participating in that week. Another idea is to integrate the lesson plan activities into regular units for a day or throughout the year. Contact Kim Frazee, DHSS, at 1-800-575-9267 to obtain a copy of the curriculum.



PIKE COUNTY WORKS WITH LOCAL HOSPITAL LAB

Pike County, like many other counties, has a lot of older homes. Therefore, there is potential for lead-based paint that may harm the children. According to the 2000 census, Pike County has 1,287 children under the age of six years, of those only 111 were tested for lead in 2000.

Pike County Health Department wanted to do something new to increase the number of children tested in 2001. Starla Carroll, RN, found that many parents lacked education in lead poisoning and prevention. There was a need for more lead education from the health department to the parents.

Ms. Carroll, Luann Meyer, Pike County Health Department Administrator, and Mary Jo Barr, Public Health Coordinator, discussed ways to increase the number of children tested for lead. One solution was to incorporate lead testing and yearly checkups during WIC clinics at the health department. The parents were receptive to doing the capillary testing for lead with the same finger as the hemoglobin.

Ms. Carroll drafted two form letters for parents. Each had instructions on what steps to take and included educational literature. The patients with insufficient quantities of blood were retested at the next WIC visit or with an appointment at the Health Department. The patients with elevated blood levels were instructed to go to their doctor. But, the health department realized many children were still not getting retested. Parents were uncooperative. They would not take their child to be tested because they had to work or the doctor's office was out of town and inconvenient to get to. Ms. Carroll then contacted the Laboratory Director, Beth Pulliam, at Pike County Hospital. The hospital lab was very willing to assist and they were able to work out a system to provide testing to more children.

Through collaborative efforts with the Pike County Hospital lab, the Missouri State Lab, and the Pike County Health Department, Ms. Carroll arranged for testing to be done at the hospital free of charge. Parents are now able to take their children for lead tests at their doctor's office, health department, or Pike County Hospital laboratory. Pike County has had very good luck using this approach. Along with increasing the number of tests, they also increased the number of elevated readings. In 2001, more than 260 children were tested. What an increase!! For more information, contact Pike County Health Department at (573) 324-6373. Good job Pike County!

WEB SITES TO CHECK OUT!!

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

www.niehs.nih.gov

Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning

www.aecclp.org

U.S. EPA Office of Children's Health

www.epa.gov/children

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

www.hud.gov

Missouri Lead Fact-

**Currently, Missouri
is the dominant
lead-producing state
in the nation.**





Childhood lead poisoning is a preventable illness that affects hundreds of Missouri's children.

LEAD POISONING VOCAB TO KNOW:

1. DELEADING: THE REMOVAL OF LEAD-BEARING SUBSTANCE.
2. RISK ASSESSOR: A PERSON LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT RISK ASSESSMENTS.
3. OCCUPANT: ANY PERSON LIVING, SLEEPING, COOKING, EATING IN OR HAVING ACTUAL POSSESSION OF A DWELLING OR RESIDENCE.



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